GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:17
ANSWERED ON:02.02.2017
Drinking Water and Sanitation Facilities
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Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large number of people who do not have access to basic amenities such as sanitation and safe drinking water in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is also true that the country''s approach to sanitation and safe drinking water needs is not yielding desired results;
(d) if so, whether the Union Government taking any comprehensive view and pay more attention to broader determinants of health such as sanitation and safe drinking water; and
(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) & (b) Under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), as reported by States/UTs on the online monitoring portal of the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, as on 29.01.2017, out of total rural population of 90.20 Crores, a population of 4.11 Crore is not getting potable drinking water where source is contaminated due to presence of one or more chemical contaminants. The State wise details are at Annexure.
Further, as on 27.1.2017, 40.10% rural households do not have toilets as per the information uploaded by the States/Districts on the Integrated Management Information System of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).

(c) to (e) No Madam. Although, rural drinking water supply is a state subject, this Ministry provides financial and technical assistance to the States to improve the coverage of safe drinking water to rural population through Centrally Sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). With this, the situation has improved with passage of time which is evident from the details reported by the State in the Ministry's web portal which is as under:

Date Coverage in terms of fully covered habitations [getting at least 40 liter per capita per day safe drinking water]
(in %)
01.04.2011 70.11 %
30.01.2017 77.22 %

Moreover, the improvement is a continuous and dynamic process. To avoid the slippage, the Ministry has advised to focus more on piped water supply through safe perennial surface water source.
The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) (SBM(G) has been launched on 2nd October, 2014, which aims at attaining Swachh Bharat by 2nd October 2019. Under this programme, the States are provided technical and financial guidance to accelerate rural sanitation coverage, including reduction in Open Defecation and promotion of solid and liquid waste management. At the launch of SBM (G) on 02-10-2014, the sanitation coverage nationwide was 42.01% which has now increased to 59.90%.
The focus of the scheme is on behavior change and usage of toilets. Sanitation is mainly a behavioral issue. It involves change of mindset amongst people to stop open defecation and to adopt safe sanitation practices. The challenges pertain to capacity building of the implementing machinery, continuing focus on community involvement and collective (i.e. village as a whole) behaviour change, promoting flexibility, so that States take a lead and choose approach best suited to them. In order to address the above challenges, a number of measures have been taken/being taken. These include:
â€¢ Focus on behavior change: Community based collective behavior change has been mentioned as the preferred approach, although the States are free to choose the approach best suited to them. Focus is also on creation of complete open defecation free (ODF) villages. This entails triggering the entire village into changing their behavior rather than dealing individually with beneficiaries.
â€¢ The programme provides flexibility to the States in the implementation. This is essential, given the vast socio-economic-cultural diversity of India, and also from the point of view of promoting innovations.
â€¢ There is a greater emphasis on capacity building, especially in community approaches and programme management. Lack of adequate capacities is a major challenge in scaling up the programme. Therefore, various initiatives are being taken to reach out to all the stakeholders. From the Government of India side, the States and select organizations (called Key Resource Centres) are being trained. These in turn are, carrying out trainings at the sub-State level. The key official at the district level-Collector-has been roped in the programme to provide leadership at the district level. They are being exposed to best practices, both through workshops and exposure visits. More than 450 Collectors from across the country have been trained. In order to provide exposure to officers at their entry level itself, a training module has been developed for LBSNAA, Mussoorie. The IAS and other Group A probationers are being given training for better implementation of SBM(G), including 'triggering' behavior change in communities.
â€¢ The programme is being run as a janandolan with cooperation of all sections of the society including the NGOs, Corporates, youth

etc. The Panchayats are being actively involved.
â€¢ There is an emphasis on streamlining administrative and financial procedures, both to cut down on time, as well as to increase accountability.
â€¢ Innovations in technology is being promoted at the National and State levels. There is a National Committee under Prof. R.M. Mashelkar that examines all new technologies from the point of view of safety and feasibility.
â€¢ Sanitation is being prioritized amongst the overall development agenda. The Government has taken a decision to prioritise all Centrally Sponsored Schemes in ODF villages. Various other development schemes are being converged with the sanitation outcomes.
â€¢ Monitoring and Evaluation has also been strengthened. The IMIS has data up to household level, with provision to capture geo-tagged photographs of toilets. A Swachhta App has been developed that provides online information on sanitation status up to household level. The citizens can also do ranking of swachhta on the Swachh App